

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 076380
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /021 R

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DRAFTED BY: AF: BSALTER

APPROVED BY: AF: WCHARROP

-----118155 241606Z /53

R 240359Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS STATE 076380

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 1651 SENT ACTION SECSTATE LONDON
USUN INFO CAPE TOWN DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LILONGWE
LUSAKA MAPUTO MAR 22.

QUOTE NCLAS PRETORIA 1651

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

REF: PRETORIA 1630

1. MARCH 22 PRESS REPORTS THAT AFTER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY (REFTEL), NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WENT INTO ITS FIRST MEETING AND "LOCKED IN DEBATE" OVER THE QUESTIONS OF ALLOCATING MINISTRIES TO THE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS. REPORTEDLY THE PORTFOLIOS OF DEFENSE, LAW AND ORDER AND FINANCE WERE THE CONTENTIOUS ONES, WITH SITHOLE CLAIMING THAT HIS NOMINEE MUST HAVE DEFENSE BECAUSE HE HAS THE BEST CONTACT WITH THE QUERRILLAS AND WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THEM TO STOP FIGHTING.

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2. ON YESTERDAYS'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT ORIGINALLY THE OATH WAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY RHODESIAN PRESIDENT JOHN SRATHALL BUT THE NATIONALIST LEADERS OBJECTED, AS HE WAS A RHODESIAN FRONT APPOINTEE TO THAT POSITION, AND INSISTED ON THE NEUTRAL BISHOP MURINDAGOMO. THE OATH WAS TAKEN TO RHODESIA, NOT ZIMBABWE, AND MUZOREWA TOLD THE

PRESS HE FELT "A BIT UNEASY" SWEARING TO AN ILLEGAL REGIME.
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOMETIMES "YOU HAVE TO SWALLOW YOUR PRIDE
TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST GOOD."

3. MEANWHILE, SMITH GAVE AN INTERVIEW JUST PRIOR
TO THE CEREMONY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN DAILY THE CITIZEN,
IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE
COUNTRY. SMITH CLAIMED THAT WHITE RHODESIANS WERE NO LONGER
LEAVING AND, IN FACT, MANY WERE BEGINNING TO RETURN.
HE ALSO AGREED WITH HIS INTERVIEWER THAT THE OUTLOOK FOR RENEWED
INVESTMENT WAS GOOD, PARTICULARLY FROM THE UNITED STATES.
WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DISMANTLING OF CERTAIN ARMED FORCES
UNITS, SMITH REPLIED "I KNOW OF NO PLAN TO DISMANTLE ANY OF OUR
SECURITY FORCES." FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.
BOWDLER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, REORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE076380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF: BSALTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780130-0705
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780327/aaaaawos.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37c1adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 1630
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3209061
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37c1adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014